REMARKS

I. Formal Matters.

Subsequent to entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 4-7 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2 and 3 are hereby cancelled without prejudice and/or disclaimer, and claim 8 is withdrawn from consideration.

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and for confirming receipt of a certified copy of Applicant's priority document.

II. Restriction.

Applicant hereby confirms the prior provisional oral election of Group I, claims 1-7, drawn to a flat display panel, without prejudice and/or disclaimer, while reserving Applicant's right to file a divisional application directed to non-elected claim 8 in due course.

III. Drawings.

Inasmuch as the Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), Applicant submits herewith a replacement drawing (FIG. 6) illustrating the "seal plate covered with a damp-proofing resin" pursuant to the Examiner's requirement (OA page 3). The specification is amended at paragraph [0036] to describe the amended drawing. In turn, withdrawal of the drawing objection is deemed appropriate and is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing for Fig. 6 of sheet 5 is submitted concurrently herewith to show the "seal plate covered with a dampproofing resin" in accordance with the Examiner's requirement. The specification is amended accordingly at paragraph [0036].

Attachments: 1 Replacement Sheet (Figs. 6 and 7).

IV. Specification.

In response to the Examiner-asserted requirement and pursuant to MPEP §606.01, the title of the invention is hereby amended to more clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed (OA page 4).

V. Claims.

The Examiner rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 is cancelled via this Amendment.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 as being allegedly anticipated by *Peng,* U.S. Patent No. 5,797,780 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The Examiner asserts a second rejection of claim 1 as allegedly being anticipated by *Morimoto, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,770,310 (*"Morimoto"*) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The Examiner rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Morimoto* as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of *Nakano, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,313,579. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled, and their subject matter is now incorporated into claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses the above three rejections, and the patentability of claim 1 over each applied reference is demonstrated in turn.

Peng discloses "a sealing [glass] plate substrate **17**" (Fig. 4; col. 4, lines 9-12). Further, *Peng* teaches that "[t]he glass plate **17** is adhered to the vitreous glass frits **18**, by dispenser" (col. 4, lines 14-15). "The sealing plate/vitreous glass frits assembly" is applied to the opening of a vacuum at a temperature between about 400 to 500°C (col. 4, lines 23-28). *Peng* clearly teaches that the sealing [glass] plate **17** and the vitreous glass frits **18** are separate structures,

adhered together (Fig. 4; col. 5, lines 5-28). Further, *Peng* teaches that the vitreous glass frits **18** bonds to the inside and outside surfaces of the back panel **1b**, while the sealing glass plate **17** is adhered to the outside surface of the glass frits **18** (Fig. 4; col. 4, lines 28-34). *Peng* teaches vitreous glass frits having a diameter slightly smaller than the glass plate, having a thickness of about 1 mm.

Claim 1 requires, "...the seal plate that is formed of pressed frit prepared by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder and calcining the molded part." In addition, this seal plate is used to seal the exhaust hole. Specifically, claim 1 requires, "...wherein the exhaust hole is sealed tightly by heat-securing of the seal plate..."

Summarizing and contrasting the patentably distinguishable differences, *Peng* discloses vitreous glass frits having a diameter less than the glass plate and a thickness of 1 mm, while claim 1 requires, "...[a] plate that is formed of pressed frit prepared by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder and calcining the molded plate." Applicant specifically claims a plate formed of pressed frit by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder and subsequent calcining of said molded plate. Further, it is this plate which is itself heat secured, sealing the exhaust hole. The glass plate **17** taught in *Peng* does not seal the exhaust hole. The vitreous glass frits **18** are not taught as being press-molded crystalline low-melting glass powder, subsequently calcined.

At least for failing to disclose, "...[a] plate that is formed of pressed frit prepared by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder and calcining the molded plate", wherein

said exhaust hole is sealed by said plate, the rejection of claim 1 by *Peng* under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Morimoto teaches an exhaust hole sealed by a planar plate lid member **28** by means of a sealer **27** (col. 4, lines 11-17; Fig. 4). Sealer **27** is used for bonding the plate lid member **28** to the rear cover **21.** Further, *Morimoto* teaches suitable sealers include various metal oxide solder (col. 4, lines 16 -25).

In contrast, claim 1 requires, "...[a] plate that is formed of pressed frit prepared by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder and calcining the molded plate", wherein said exhaust hole is sealed by said plate. *Morimoto* fails to teach sealing the exhaust hole with a plate of pressed fit, formed by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder. At least for failing to disclose, "...[a] plate that is formed of pressed frit prepared by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder and calcining the molded plate", wherein said exhaust hole is sealed by said plate, the rejection of claim 1 by *Morimoto* under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) should be withdrawn.

The Examiner concedes that primary reference *Morimoto* fails to teach a "seal plate formed of press frit" (OA page 6). The Examiner then relies on *Nakano* to provide the teaching of a "seal bonding member formed of press fit" (OA page 6). Finally, Examiner asserts that the seal bonding member of *Nakano* would combine with the seal plate in *Morimoto* to provide the element of "a seal plate made of frit" as required by Applicant's claim 1 (OA page 7).

Applicant calls the Examiner's attention to the fact neither claim 1, nor canceled claims 2 and 3, contain an element referring to a coefficient of thermal expansion for frit or for glass.

Nakano teaches, "[t]he seal bonding member 20 is formed by molding crystalline glass powder of a low melting point made of a mixture of lead borosilicate glass and baking it and has a softening point of about 390 degrees C." (*Nakano* col. 4, lines 12-15). However, this "baking" step is further described as "when the seal bonding member **20** is baked...the seal bonding member **20**...flows, thereby hermetically sealing the...chip tube **11**" (col. 4, lines 12-15; col. 5, lines 7-11).

In contrast, claim 1 requires, "calcining the molded plate" and "the exhaust hole is sealed tightly by heat-securing of the seal plate." The "baking" taught in *Nakano* is part of the heat sealing process of the chip tube to the evacuation hole **9** (col. 4, lines 12-15; col. 5, lines 3-11). One ordinarily skilled in the art would readily recognize that while claim 1 requires a heat sealing process using a calcined sealing member, *Nakano* only teaches a "crystalline molded frit" seal member, which in turn is heated to provide hermetic sealing. Neither in the text cited by the Examiner, nor in the text at large, does *Nakano* teach or suggest the element of "calcining the molded plate", wherein said plate is "formed of pressed frit prepared by press-molding crystalline low-melting glass powder." *Nakano* fails to make up the deficiency of *Morimoto;* therefore, at least for failing to disclose "calcining the molded plate," the obviousness rejection of claim 1, the subject matter of claim 3, over *Morimoto* in view of *Nakano* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Morimoto* as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of *Nakano, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,313,579. The Examiner rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Morimoto*, and further in view of *Nakatake, et al.*, U.S. Patent

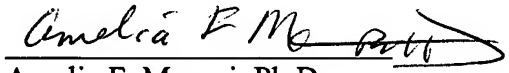
No. 6,827,623. The Examiner rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Morimoto,* and further in view of *Tsunoda, et al.,* U.S. Patent No. 5,914,531.

Dependent claims 4-7 are asserted as being in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependency from an allowable claim.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any over-payments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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